

The Pioneer Band Newsletter

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PIONEER BAND OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PIONEER BAND OF ALLENTOWN

Jay A. Durner, Director

Presents

MUSIC OF THE MOVIES



THEATER

With

***Special Guest Conductor
Dick Haber***

**Sunday, May 7, 2006
3 PM**

**Scottish Rite Cathedral
1533 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA**

ADMISSION: FREE

***Sponsored by a grant from the Florence Flach
Foundation***

Pioneer Band Participates in Music in Our Schools Month At Northwestern Lehigh High School



Northwestern Lehigh High School Band Director, Kristin Showalter directs combined bands

Thanks to a grant from the **Lehigh Valley Arts Council** and the **Music Performance fund**, the Pioneer Band participated during **Music In Our Schools Month** and traveled to Northwestern Lehigh High School on March 27 to perform a concert for the students then joined with the students at the end of the program to perform three pieces together as a combined band. **Kristin Showalter**, Director of the Northwestern Lehigh Concert Band and **Jay Durner**, Director of the Pioneer Band worked together to plan the event. Ms. Showalter directed a portion of the Pioneer Band segment of the program and also directed the combined bands. The concert was a success; one of the students was heard saying, "That was awesome!" Pioneer Band president, **Mary Paine** reports, "This was a great opportunity for the students to see that their musical training can continue long after they leave school. Some of the members of the Pioneer Band have been performing for 60 + years. Our summer Children's Concert Series has been such a great success and it only seemed natural that we would offer this program in the schools."

Membership Drive in Progress

We are looking for new Pioneer Band members for the 2006 summer season. We are finding that we need additional members to fill in when other members are on vacation or unable to play a particular concert. If you have played an instrument in the past and you want to "pick up the instrument again" or you know someone with the ability to play a band instrument who may be interested, please contact us. We have lots of fun and perform at many sites throughout the year. Local 45 of the American Federation of Musicians is also offering a "special" if you join between now and June 30. **All band instruments are welcome!**

Thanks To Our 2006 Sponsors

Bessie Graham Foundation	Lehigh Valley Arts Council
Century Fund	Music Performance Fund
County of Lehigh	Pennsylvania Humanities Council
Charles Hoch Foundation	State Representative Jennifer Mann
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IN MEMORY OF CARL R. DRAXLER, SR.

Jay H. Gilbert and Family
Eileen and Stephen Sabulish, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. George Steve
Margaret Weaver

Member Spotlight

Meet Trumpet Player and Announcer *Matt Cascioli*

Article Contributed by Karen El-Chaar, Flutist, and President of Local 45 of the American Federation of Musicians



One of the most wonderful experiences for a musician is performing with an ensemble that works well together, sounds great and provides a “fun” environment. On the other hand, a good ensemble appreciates its musicians and recognizes those individuals who contribute much more than their music abilities.

The Pioneer Band of Allentown boasts a whole host of phenomenal musicians, persons with entrepreneurial spirit and great leaders. One such leader is **Matt Cascioli**, the Band’s Vice President. His contributions are many, ranging from his trumpet playing abilities, to programming assistance, to working with the musicians union to ensure the Band is well-represented.

Matt began his career as a history teacher, with both undergraduate and master’s degrees from Penn State University. After two years in the North Penn School District (Lansdale, PA), he moved to Salisbury Township and taught at Salisbury High School until his retirement in 1996. Education was not his only interest. Shortly after his arrival at Salisbury High School he organized the school’s first musical production.

He derived his interest in music from his father, Dan Cascioli, trumpeter and leader of a local Italian band. Matt grew up in a home rife with popular Italian music and eventually joined his father in public performance, playing at numerous Italian festivals and church celebrations. Their interest expanded into swing and Big Band music and culminated in Matt founding the Royalaires dance band in the mid-1970s. Both men later joined the Pioneer Band of Allentown, where Matt has served as a board member since 1980. The locally-based Italian band became officially known as the Lehigh Valley Italian-American Band and Matt

became leader in 1993.

The Pioneer Band has certainly benefited from Matt’s tenure on the board of directors. His keen abilities in the financial arena have assisted in identifying grant opportunities and stretching funds to ensure that more concerts are provided to the general public. As an officer of the local musicians union (Lehigh Valley Musicians’ Association, Local 45 of the American Federation of Musicians), he not only serves the interest of all member musicians, but provides information on key issues which impact Band activities. This relationship is complementary and mutually beneficial.

In keeping with the familial music interest, Matt continues this tradition and has brought his two sons into the Pioneer Band. Danny Cascioli, named after Matt’s father, is the percussion section leader who is grooming the next generation of Band percussionists, with pre-kindergartener son M.J. avidly practicing on his little trap set. Matt’s second son, Matthew, plays the bass drum and can be seen marching with the Band at numerous parades. And, Matt’s wife, Norma, plays a key role in supporting Matt as he pursues his various activities.

For this and much more, the Pioneer Band salutes this former United States Army captain, history teacher, financial whiz, trumpet player, and all-around nice guy with great applause and appreciation. **THANK YOU MATT!!!!**

Other Member Recognition

Behind the scenes many of our members also donate additional time and Board President, **Mary Paine**, does a great job coordinating the affairs of the Band. The Pioneer Band also salutes these members for their extra efforts.

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